Summary of Embodiments Described in the Present Application

The present application describes various embodiments of a user model that, in one embodiment, can be implemented in an interactive television system. An interactive television system may include a number of elements including a headend to which a plurality access devices (e.g., set top boxes or STBs) may be connected. The user model recognizes that many individuals may live in a house in which multiple access devices may be located. These access devices may be considered client systems.

In one aspect, the user model of the present application organizes an interactive television system by establishing software "objects" that represent the various households and the access devices and individual users in the households that make up the interactive television system. As depicted in FIGURE 5, a "household object" 202 (or simply "household") may be associated with an account in the television system. Associated with the household are "access device objects" and "user objects" that represent the access devices and users, respectively, in the household. The access devices, or client systems, in the household are configured to be logical extensions of each other.

The use of "objects" is known in the field of computer programming for organizing executable code and data, but has heretofore not been applied outside of computer programming. Described herewith is a novel application of an "object-oriented" approach to organizing households, access devices, and users in an interactive multimedia environment.

Once established, an "object" can be instantiated in an electronic system and provide functionality to the electronic system. Multiple instances of an object can be set up to represent multiple entities. Thus, a household object can have multiple access device objects and multiple user objects associated therewith, wherein each instance of an object has a configuration of attributes and data.

For example, consider a household in which each of the parents and children of a family have a corresponding user object in the household. Attributes and data associated with each user object may be used to define different access privileges possessed by each user in the household. A user object for a child may include a channel list that permits the child to access only those channels deemed appropriate by the child's parents. A user object for a parent may grant the privilege of purchasing pay per view programming that otherwise is withheld from a child. Different media access privileges for different users can be controlled by the different user objects in the household. In a context discussed more specifically in the present application, a user object may include configuration information related to a "favorites" setting.

As noted above, a user in a household may establish a user object to represent the user in the system and the object, once established, may be instantiated in the multiple access devices, or client systems, in the household. The instances of the user object in the access devices all share a common origin and thus have the same organization of attributes and data. This aspect of the present invention allows a user to create or reconfigure a user object by logging on to an authorized user object at any one of the access devices of the household. The other access devices (if any) in the household may automatically receive the new or reconfigured user object information without further action by the user. This aspect advantageously allows a single operation to configure and/or reconfigure all of the access devices in a household with the user object information of a new or revised user object.

In another aspect of the present application, when a user adds a new access device to the household, the new access device may automatically receive the user object information of user objects already existing in the household, without further action by the user. In one embodiment, this automatic exchange of user object information between instances of a user object is coordinated by a server that stores the configuration information of each household and its

associated user objects. This server, for example, can be operated by a multiple service operator (MSO) or service provider. Alternatively, the server may be at a broadcast center for a satellite broadcast system.

In another aspect, the information of a user object may be updated using a revision information file. An access device sends updated user object information to a server when a user changes the user object information of a user object via that access device. In one embodiment, the server receives the updated user object information and stores the updated information in a file corresponding to the user object. In addition, the server creates an update entry for the received update information, which is stored in a list. The update entry includes a ticket number and a bit vector, with the bit vector corresponding to the updated information being set. The ticket number is incremented for each new update entry.

<u>Patentability of Claims 1-10 Over Cragun</u>

Turning now to the claims, the Office Action cited Cragun as anticipating the subject matter recited in Claims 1-10. Applicant respectfully disagrees. For the convenience of the Examiner, Claim 1 is repeated as follows:

1. A system to view multimedia content, the system comprising:

a broadcast center capable of being communicatively coupled to a network; and

a plurality of client systems coupled to the broadcast center,

wherein the plurality of client systems are associated with a household,

wherein the plurality of client systems are logical extensions of each other,

wherein the household is configurable to be associated with a plurality of user objects,

wherein a client system of the plurality of client systems is configured to be selectively accessed by a user to change a configuration of a user object of the plurality of user objects that is related to a favorites setting, and

wherein the system is configured to provide the change of the configuration of the user object related to the favorites setting to all of the client systems of the plurality of client systems without further activity from the user.

Cragun is directed to a method and system in which users can participate and share amongst themselves a synchronized list of bookmarks for use on the Internet. Two principal embodiments are discussed. In one embodiment, "a server can be used to maintain the collaborative bookmarks and synchronized bookmark lists." Cragun, Col. 2, lines 46-47. In the other embodiment, "bookmark lists are synchronized by sending e-mail messages to each participant." Cragun, Col. 2, lines 49-51.

Applicant has considered the Cragun reference and respectfully submits that Cragun does not teach or suggest all of the elements recited in Claims 1-11 and thus cannot support a *prima facie* rejection of the claims as being anticipated. For example, with respect to Claim 1, the Office Action cited Cragun at Col. 2, lines 25-67, as disclosing "wherein the plurality of client systems are associated with a household." Applicant has searched this cited section and indeed the entire Cragun reference, and does not find any teaching of this claim element. At most, Cragun teaches "multiple computer systems 100 can be used with an optional server 182" (Col. 2, lines 61-62), but this does not anticipate the element "wherein the plurality of client

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systems are associated with a household." Cragun makes no reference to households or to an object-oriented model that associates client systems and users in the households.

The Office Action further cited Cragun at Col. 3, lines 10-40 and Col. 3, line 60 to Col. 4, line 2, as disclosing the element "wherein the plurality of client systems are logical extensions of each other." Applicant respectfully disagrees. While Cragun teaches "a solution for individual users who access the web from different places, for example from both work and home, or from two different computer systems 100 or even two operating systems 130" (Col. 2, line 66 to Col. 4, line 2), this cannot be equated with the claim element "wherein the plurality of client systems are logical extensions of each other." Cragun, rather, teaches quite the opposite.

Cragun relies on either an exchange of e-mail or server-administered computer interaction to manage the bookmark lists on the different computer systems 100 precisely because the client systems are _not_ logical extensions of each other. Mere communication of information from one computer to another does not make the computer systems logical extensions of each other, even if the communication is to keep similar bookmark lists on the computers. Users frequently e-mail files between work and home. While the users may access the Internet through different systems, e.g., at work and at home, a person of ordinary skill in computer technology would not consider the different systems to be logical extensions of each other, as recited in Claim 1.

The Office Action also cited Cragun at Col. 3, lines 10-40, as disclosing the element "wherein the household is configurable to be associated with a plurality of user objects." Applicant has considered this section of Cragun, and again the entire Cragun reference, but does not find any teaching supporting this assertion. In one aspect, it is unclear what portion of Cragun is believed by the Examiner to anticipate "user objects", but to the extent the Examiner considered Cragun's bookmark lists as "user objects", this is mistaken. Cragun's bookmark lists

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are maintained as separate lists on different systems. Even though Cragun teaches means in which bookmark information is communicated from one computer to another, this does not transform the separate lists into "user objects", as described and claimed in the present application. Without teaching the concept of a "household" configurable to be associated with "user objects", Cragun does not anticipate this element or the remaining elements of Claim 1.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that Claim 1 is not anticipated by Cragun and should be allowed.

Claims 2-10 are also patentable over Cragun, both for their dependence on allowable Claim 1, and further for the additional subject matter they recite.

In support of the rejection of Claim 2, for example, the Office Action cited Cragun at Col. 1, lines 30-55 and Col. 3, lines 10-55 as disclosing the system of Claim 1, "wherein the system is configurable to selectively add a new client system to the plurality of client systems, the system being configured to provide the plurality of user objects, including the favorites setting, to the new client system without activity from a user." These sections, however, do not address selectively adding new client systems and the provision of user objects thereto.

As another example, Claim 5 recites a server "configured to include a revision history" and Claim 6 recites the system of claim 5, "wherein the revision history includes a ticket number associated with each configuration change that is included in the revision history." The Office Action cited Cragun at Col. 6, lines 37-60 as teaching these elements, but applicant disagrees. Cragun teaches a historical database holding records such as nominate records, approve records, and move records, but it is nowhere evident that Cragun teaches a revision history that includes a ticket number associated with each configuration change included in the revision history.

As to Claim 10, the Office Action states "it is well known that TV channels/station have their own website." However, that is not what Claim 10 recites. Claim 10 is directed to the

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system of Claim 1 "wherein the favorites setting includes a *television channel*", which is not taught or suggested by Cragun.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-10.

Patentability of Claims 11-14 Over Cragun

The Office Action cited Cragun as anticipating all of the elements recited in Claims 11-14. Applicant respectfully traverses these claim rejections. For the convenience of the Examiner, Claim 11 is repeated as follows:

> 11. A method to provide access to content in a multimedia communication network system having a plurality of access devices, the method comprising:
>
> receiving configuration information related to a user object from a user via an access device of the plurality of access devices,
>
> wherein the configuration information defines multimedia content that can be accessed by instantiating the user object in the access device,
>
> wherein the configuration information further defines at least one favorites setting for that access device; and
>
> providing the received configuration information, including the favorites setting, to another access device of the plurality of access devices.

As previously discussed herein, the present application teaches an object-oriented user model in which objects are defined and instantiated to represent households, access devices and users in a multimedia system. Claim 11 recites, in part, "receiving configuration information

related to a user object from a user via an access device of the plurality of access devices, wherein the configuration information defines multimedia content that can be accessed by instantiating the user object in the access device [and] wherein the configuration information further defines at least one favorites setting for that access device."

The Office Action rejected Claim 11 in connection with Claim 1, without separately addressing the elements of Claim 11 that are different than Claim 1. As previously noted herein, the present application teaches a system in which attributes and data associated with user objects may be used to define different access privileges possessed by each user in the household. Without any guidance as to which part of Cragun teaches elements such as "configuration information [that] defines multimedia content that can be accessed by instantiating the user object in the access device," applicant considered the entire Cragun reference and found nothing that even suggests this element. Bookmarks, at best, provide shortcuts to content on the Internet, but they do not "define[] multimedia content that can be accessed by instantiating the user object in the access device." Absent a teaching of each and every element in Claim 11, the disclosure of Cragun does not support a *prima facie* rejection of Claim 11. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 11 is requested.

Claims 12-14 should also be allowed, for their dependence on allowable Claim 11 and for the additional subject matter they recite. As to Claims 13 and 14 for example, it is nowhere evident that Cragun teaches a revision history that includes ticket numbers assigned to revised configuration information.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 11-14.

Patentability of Claims 15-19 Over Cragun

Claim 15 recites as follows:

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15. A control system to provide access to content in a multimedia communication network system having a plurality of access devices, the control system comprising:

a server to receive configuration information related to a user object from a user via an access device of the plurality of access devices,

wherein the configuration information defines multimedia content that can be accessed via instantiation of the user object in the access device,

wherein the configuration information further defines at least one favorites setting for that access device, and

wherein the server is capable to provide the received configuration information, including the favorites setting, to another access device of the plurality of access devices.

The Office Action cited Cragun at Col. 2, line 60 to Col. 3, line 10, and Col. 1, lines 30-55, as teaching "a server to receive configuration information related to a user object from a user via an access device of the plurality of access devices, wherein the configuration information defines multimedia content that can be accessed via instantiation of the user object in the access device." However, as discussed above with respect to Claim 11, neither these sections nor any other portion of Cragun teaches these elements. Cragun's bookmarks may, at best, provide shortcuts to content on the Internet, but they do not "define[] multimedia content that can be accessed via instantiation of the user object in the access device." Indeed, nowhere does Cragun discuss instantiation of a user object because Cragun has nothing suggesting an object-oriented user model as disclosed and claimed in the present application. The rejection of Claim 15 should be withdrawn and Claim 15 should be allowed.

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Claims 16-19 should also be allowed, both for their dependence on allowable Claim 15 and for the additional subject matter they recite. Claim 17, for example, recites the control system of Claim 16, "wherein the server is capable to assign a ticket number to the revised configuration information and to store the ticket number in a revision history." However, as with Claims 13 and 14, it is nowhere evident that Cragun teaches a revision history that includes ticket numbers assigned to revised configuration information.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 15-19.

Patentability of Claims 20-24 Over Cragun

Claim 20 recites as follows:

20. An article of manufacture, comprising:

a machine-readable medium for use in a multimedia communication network having a plurality of access devices, the machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon to:

receive configuration information related to a user object from a user via an access device of the plurality of access devices,

wherein the configuration information defines multimedia content that can be accessed via instantiation of the user object in the access device,

wherein the configuration information further defines at least one favorites setting for that access device; and

provide the received configuration information, including the favorites setting, to another access device of the plurality of access devices.

As previously noted herein, the present application teaches an object-oriented user model in which objects are defined and instantiated to represent households, access devices and users in a multimedia system. The Office Action rejected Claim 20 in connection with Claim 1, without separately addressing the elements of Claim 20 that are different than Claim 1. Without particular guidance as to which part of Cragun teaches elements such as a machine-readable medium with instructions to "receive configuration information related to a user object from a user via an access device of the plurality of access devices, wherein the configuration information defines multimedia content that can be accessed via instantiation of the user object in the access device," applicant considered the entire Cragun reference and found nothing suggesting this element. As with Claim 15 above, absent a teaching of each and every element in Claim 20, the disclosure of Cragun does not support a *prima facie* rejection of Claim 20. Allowance of Claim 20 is requested.

Claims 21-24 are also patentable for their dependence on patentable Claim 20 and for the additional subject matter they recite. For example, Cragun does not teach a revision history that includes ticket numbers assigned to revised configuration information, as recited in Claim 21.

As a further example, in support of a rejection of Claim 24, the Office Action cited Cragun at Col. 4, lines 1-30 and Col. 7, lines 40-60. Applicant has carefully considered these sections of Cragun and respectfully submits that they do not teach what is claimed. Claim 24 is directed to the article of manufacture of Claim 21, "further including instructions stored thereon to: set a bit in a bit vector, the bit vector having a plurality of bits each being associated to a corresponding configuration parameter of the user object, wherein the set bit indicates the configuration parameter associated with the received configuration information and is related to the favorites setting; and provide the bit vector to one of the access devices." Further inspection

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of the entire disclosure of Cragun demonstrates that Cragun does not anticipate the elements of Claim 24.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 20-24.

Patentability of Claims 25-27 Over Cragun

Claim 25 recites as follows:

> 25.   An update method to provide configuration information related to user object of a multimedia communication network system having a plurality of access devices, the configuration information including values for a plurality of configuration parameters, at least one of the configuration parameters being related to a favorites setting, the method comprising:
>
> receiving a portion of the configuration information including the favorites setting via an access device of the plurality of access devices;
>
> assigning a ticket number to the received portion of the configuration information;
>
> storing the ticket number in a revision history; and
>
> providing the ticket number to the access device.

For reasons discussed above with respect to Claims 6, 14, 17, and 21, Cragun does not teach each and every element of Claim 25, notwithstanding the citations to Cragun set forth in the Office Action. Lacking disclosure that teaches each and every element in Claim 25, Cragun does not support a *prima facie* rejection of Claim 25. Accordingly, Claim 25 should be allowed.

Claims 26 and 27 are also patentable for their dependence on patentable Claim 25 and for the additional subject matter they recite. For example, Cragun does not teach "setting a bit in a

bit vector, the bit vector having a plurality of bits each being associated to a corresponding configuration parameter of the user object, wherein the set bit indicates the configuration parameter associated with the received configuration information and is related to the favorites setting; and providing the bit vector to the access device," as recited in Claim 26.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 25-27.

<u>Patentability of Claims 28-30 Over Cragun</u>

Claim 28 recites as follows:

> 28.   An article of manufacture, comprising:
>
> a machine-readable medium for use in a multimedia communication network system having a plurality of access devices, the configuration information including values for a plurality of configuration parameters, at least one of the configuration parameters being related to a favorites setting, the machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon to:
>
> receive a portion of the configuration information including the favorites setting via an access device of the plurality of access devices;
>
> assign a ticket number to the received portion of the configuration information;
>
> store the ticket number in a revision history; and
>
> provide the ticket number to the access device.

For reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to Claims 6, 14, 17, 21 and 25, Cragun does not teach all of the elements of Claim 28 and thus does not anticipate Claim 28. Dependent Claims 29 and 30 are also not anticipated by Cragun. For example, Claim 29 recites instructions to "set a bit in a bit vector, the bit vector having a plurality of bits each being

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associated to a corresponding configuration parameter of the user object, wherein the set bit indicates the configuration parameter associated with the received configuration information and is related to the favorites setting; and provide the bit vector to the access device," which is not taught by Cragun.

Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 28-30 is requested.

Patentability of Claims 31-33 Over Cragun

Claim 31 recites as follows:

> 31.   A method to provide configuration information for at least one user object to an access device in a multimedia communication network system having a server and a plurality of access devices, the access devices of the plurality of access devices being associated with one or more households, the method comprising:
>
> receiving a signal at the server that an access device is being associated with a household in response to user activation of the access device when the access device is coupled to the multimedia communication network system;
>
> sending from the server an indication of whether the access device is the household's first access device; and
>
> sending from the server configuration information for at least one user object when the access device is not the first access device of the household, the configuration information sent from the server including a favorites setting present in at least one of the other access devices in the household.

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The Office Action rejected Claim 31 in connection with Claim 15, without separately addressing the elements of Claim 31 that are different than Claim 15. Accordingly, the Office Action provided no guidance as to which part of Cragun was considered to teach elements such as "receiving a signal at the server that an access device is being associated with a household in response to user activation of the access device when the access device is coupled to the multimedia communication network system", "sending from the server an indication of whether the access device is the household's first access device", and "sending from the server configuration information for at least one user object when the access device is not the first access device of the household, the configuration information sent from the server including a favorites setting present in at least one of the other access devices in the household." Applicant considered all of the disclosure of Cragun and found nothing that teaches or suggests the foregoing elements. Absent a teaching of each and every element in Claim 31, the disclosure of Cragun does not support a *prima facie* rejection of Claim 31. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 31 is requested.

Claims 32 and 33 should also be allowed, for their dependence on allowable Claim 31 and for the additional subject matter they recite.

Claim 32 recites the method of Claim 31 in which the method further comprises "receiving configuration information from the user, including another favorites setting, via the access device when the access device is the first access device of the household; and providing to the server the configuration information received from the user." Applicant does not find this feature being taught or suggested by Cragun, whether at Col. 1, lines 30-55 and Col. 3, lines 10-67 as cited in the Office Action, or in any other section of Cragun.

As to Claim 33, it is nowhere evident that Cragun teaches a server that sends a ticket number corresponding to configuration information provided to the server.

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In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 31-33.

Patentability of Claims 34-35 Over Cragun and Ellis

Claim 34 recites as follows:

> 34. An apparatus to coordinate settings to access content available via an interactive video casting system having a plurality of channels, the interactive video casting system having connectivity to a plurality of access devices and capable to provide the plurality of access devices with access to a communication network, the apparatus comprising:
>
> a server located in the interactive video casting system and capable to communicate with each access device in the plurality of access devices via a communication protocol suitable to each access device,
>
> wherein the server is capable to receive configuration information related to a user object from a user via one of access device of the plurality of access devices according to the communication protocol for that access device,
>
> wherein the configuration information defines multimedia content that can be accessed via instantiation of the user object in the access device,
>
> wherein the configuration information further defines at least one favorites setting for that access device,
>
> wherein the at least one favorites setting includes an address associated with a location in the communication network where the

content can be accessed by the access device or including a channel among the plurality of channels of the interactive video casting system,

wherein the server is capable to provide the configuration information received from the access device, including the favorites setting having the address or the channel, to another access device of the plurality of access devices without further activity from the user according to a communication protocol suitable to that access device.

Claims 34-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cragun in view of Ellis. As previously discussed herein, the present application teaches an object-oriented user model in which objects are defined and instantiated to represent households, access devices and users in a multimedia system. Cragun does not teach any such elements, including "user objects" having "configuration information [that] defines multimedia content that can be accessed via instantiation of the user object in the access device." Cragun also does not teach a "favorites setting" as "including a channel among the plurality of channels of [an] interactive video casting system." While Ellis may teach an interactive video casting system, as asserted in the Office Action, this teaching alone does not overcome the above-discussed deficiencies of disclose in the Cragun reference. Consequently, even if Cragun's system could be modified to operate an interactive video casting system according to Ellis, the resulting modified system still fails to teach all of the elements recited in Claim 34. Claims 34 and 35 are thus in allowable condition.

Patentability of Claims 36-37 Over Cragun and Ellis

Claim 36 recites as follows:

36.   An apparatus to coordinate settings to access content available via an interactive video casting system having a plurality of

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channels, the interactive video casting system having connectivity to a plurality of access devices and capable to provide the plurality of access devices with access to a communication network, the apparatus comprising:

a server located in the interactive video casting system and capable to communicate with each access device in the plurality of access devices via a communication protocol suitable to each access device,

wherein the server is capable to receive configuration information related to a user object from a user via one of access device of the plurality of access devices according to the communication protocol for that access device,

wherein the configuration information defines multimedia content that can be accessed via instantiation of the user object in the access device,

wherein the configuration information further defines at least one favorites setting for that access device,

wherein the at least one favorites setting includes an address associated with a location in the communication network where the content can be accessed by the access device or including a channel among the plurality of channels of the interactive video casting system,

wherein the server is capable to provide the configuration information received from the access device, including the favorites setting having the address or the channel, to another access device of the plurality of access devices without further activity from the user according

to a communication protocol suitable to that access device, the server further being capable to:

assign a ticket number to a portion of the received configuration information;

store the ticket number in a revision history;

provide the ticket number to the access device that sent the configuration information;

set a bit in a bit vector, the bit vector having a plurality of bits each being associated to a corresponding configuration parameter of the user object, wherein the set bit indicates the configuration parameter associated with the received configuration information and is related to the favorites setting; and

provide the bit vector to the access device that sent the configuration information.

As with Claims 34-35, Claims 36-37 were rejected as being unpatentable over Cragun in view of Ellis. Applicants has considered both the Cragun and Ellis references and submits that neither of the references, alone or in combination, teach all of the elements set forth in Claims 36 and 37. As discussed above, neither Cragun nor Ellis discusses "user objects", as claimed, nor do they discuss "configuration information [that] defines multimedia content that can be accessed via instantiation of the user object in the access device." Furthermore, as discussed above, Cragun and Ellis do not teach a "favorites setting" that includes "a channel among the plurality of channels of the interactive video casting system." Additionally, the references do not teach a server capable to "assign a ticket number to a portion of the received configuration information; store the ticket number in a revision history; provide the ticket number to the access

device that sent the configuration information; set a bit in a bit vector, the bit vector having a plurality of bits each being associated to a corresponding configuration parameter of the user object, wherein the set bit indicates the configuration parameter associated with the received configuration information and is related to the favorites setting; and provide the bit vector to the access device that sent the configuration information."

For all the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that Claims 36 and 37 are patentable over Cragun and Ellis. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 36 and 37 is requested.

Patentability of Claim 38 Over Cragun

Claim 38 recites as follows:

> 38. An apparatus to provide access to content in a multimedia communication network system having a plurality of access devices, the method comprising:
>
> a means for receiving configuration information related to a user object from a user via an access device of the plurality of access devices,
>
> wherein the configuration information defines multimedia content that can be accessed by instantiating the user object in the access device,
>
> wherein the configuration information further defines at least one favorites setting for that access device; and
>
> a means for providing the received configuration information, including the favorites setting, to another access device of the plurality of access devices.

The Office Action rejected Claim 38 in connection with Claim 1, without separately addressing the elements of Claim 38 that are different than Claim 1. As previously noted herein,

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the present application teaches a system in which attributes and data associated with user objects may be used to define different access privileges possessed by each user in the household. Without particular guidance in the Office Action, applicant considered the entire Cragun reference and found nothing that suggests elements such as "configuration information [that] defines multimedia content that can be accessed by instantiating the user object in the access device." As discussed above with respect to Claim 11, bookmarks as taught by Cragun provide, at best, shortcuts to content on the Internet; they do not, however, "define[] multimedia content that can be accessed by instantiating the user object in the access device." Absent a teaching of each and every element in Claim 38, the disclosure of Cragun does not support a *prima facie* rejection of Claim 38. Allowance of Claim 38 is requested.

Patentability of Claim 39 Over Cragun

Lastly, Claim 39 recites as follows:

> 39. A system to provide configuration information for at least one user object to an access device in a multimedia communication network having a server and a plurality of access devices, the access devices of the plurality of access devices being associated with one or more households, the system comprising:
>
> a means for receiving a signal at the server that an access device is being associated with a household in response to user activation of the access device when the access device is coupled to the multimedia communication network;
>
> a means for sending from the server an indication of whether the access device is the household's first access device; and

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a means for sending from the server configuration information for at least one user object when the access device is not the first access device of the household, the configuration information sent from the server including a favorites setting present in at least one of the other access devices in the household.

The Office Action rejected Claim 39 in connection with Claim 15, without separately addressing the elements of Claim 39 that are different than Claim 15. Accordingly, the Office Action provided no guidance as to which parts of Cragun were considered to teach elements such as "means for receiving a signal at the server that an access device is being associated with a household in response to user activation of the access device when the access device is coupled to the multimedia communication network system", "means for sending from the server an indication of whether the access device is the household's first access device", and "means for sending from the server configuration information for at least one user object when the access device is not the first access device of the household, the configuration information sent from the server including a favorites setting present in at least one of the other access devices in the household." As with Claim 31 above, applicant considered all of the disclosure of Cragun and found nothing that teaches or suggests the recited means. Lacking a teaching of each and every element in Claim 39, the disclosure of Cragun does not support a *prima facie* rejection of the claim. Claim 39 should be allowed.
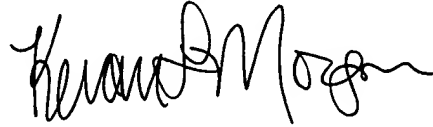
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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims in the present application are in allowable condition and requests a notice to that effect at an early date. Should the Examiner identify any issues needing resolution prior to allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned counsel by telephone.
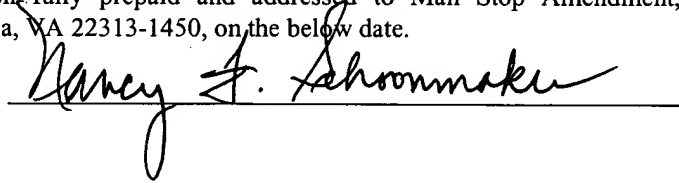
Respectfully submitted,

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